

Names: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Our Independent Reading Lives: The Play!

Tom: My name is Tom. I am 66 years old. I am a teacher.

Alix: My name is Alix. I am 27 years old. I am a designer.

Jason: My name is Jason. I am 30 years old. I am a law student.

Will: My name is Will. I am 51 years old. I am an electrician.

Carol: My name is Carol. I am 76 years old. I am a nun.

Tom: Hey, Jason?

Jason: Yes, Tom?

Tom: **What do you think of when your teacher says, "Let's read!"?**

Jason: I think of how reading helps me learn about new things.

Carol: I think of how reading sparks my imagination and helps me clarify my beliefs.

Alix: I think of all of the things I need to read. I feel like I'm falling behind.

Will: I think of how bad it feels to HAVE to read something, or to not have enough time to read and comprehend well.

Tom: I think of magic.

Will: **Why do I read?** Because it's good for my brain. It's pleasurable and I want to know what's going on in the world.

Jason: I read because I have to for school and work. If I didn't read, I'd be more bored and boring.

Alix: I read because I'm always discovering that I don't know enough about something, and then I have to read about it.

Carol: I read to learn, to be inspired, and to be entertained.

Tom: I read because it clarifies my thinking, opens up new ways of seeing things, and because it gives me pleasure.

Carol: **Choosing a book to read?** I like it when a friend says, "You've got to read this!" Listening to public radio introduces me to today's bestsellers and I also follow certain authors.

Alix: I decide I need to read a book when I want to use certain words in my work. I want to buy beautiful real books, but some websites offer audio books which I really appreciate.

Jason: I read books that friends recommend to me, that I bump into in the library or at a book exchange, that have to do with topics I'm interested in, and that I feel like I could learn something from.

Tom: I usually choose by an author I like or by a subject I like.

Will: Mostly I choose based on recommendations from friends and family who know me well.

Alix: Hey, Will?

Will: Yes, Alix?

Alix: **What is one of the best books you've ever read? Why was it so good?**

ALL: It's hard to choose only one!

Will: Many Rivers to Cross by M.R. Montgomery. It spoke to my adventurous

spirit as a young adult, a time when it wasn't so easy to tell the difference between reality and fantasy, so I was fully immersed in the story in a way that's difficult to achieve as an adult.

Carol: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. It motivated my lifelong interest in working for justice.

Jason: The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. I love getting lost in her world. Also, *The Civil War: A Narrative* by Shelby Foote. It is amazing prose and

I

learned so much about an important period in American history.

Tom: *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. This is the book that drove me to write. Also, that one book about Peter Pan that had all the pictures and an ancient history book that was heavily illustrated that I checked out of the St. Cloud library about 400 times.

Alix: Flannery O'Connor's short stories. I love them because they're like puzzles. They stick in your head for years, rolling around and meaning different things, coming to mind like memories. They make me think about how to be a good person.

Carol: **Our greatest strengths as readers of books:**

Will: Absorbing the book's message, feeling the characters, and finishing it even when it disappoints.

Tom: First - I really want to read. I want to be free of distractions so I can dive in. Second - I suspend disbelief quickly. I want to play any game that the author suggests. Third - I persist. Even if I think what I'm reading is stupid,

I keep going for a long time, trying to find out why somebody thought it was worth reading.

Jason: My many different interests, my background knowledge when reading non-fiction, and my willingness to slog through stuff other people would probably find boring because I'm learning something from it.

Alix: Finding books I want to read, being open to many different kinds of books, and not giving up if I don't understand every word.

Carol: I have finally given myself permission not to finish a book I don't like.

Alix: **What we would like to get better at:**

Jason: Reading faster. And understanding what the heck is going on in fiction.

Tom: Making reading a bigger priority. I'd like to spend more time reading.

Carol: I hope to become part of a women's book club some day, where we together choose titles and share thoughts.

Will: Presenting and explaining the book to others. It's sometimes frustrating when I can't put into words how the book has made me feel and what I find fascinating about it.

Alix: I don't read enough books. I stack up books that I want to read and keep them in my house, but I still don't usually get through them. I also wish I was better at remembering the details of what I read, or digging into really difficult texts without getting bored.

Jason: 2016.

ALL: 2016

Jason: September 16, 2016.

Tom: **How do we feel about reading and ourselves as readers today?** My name is Tom. I am 66 years old. Reading is a big part of who I am. I love reading and just wish I had more time to read.

Alix: My name is Alix. I am 27 years old. I feel like my ability to read is a clumsy but trusty tool that can get me into new ways of thinking and experiencing life.

Jason: My name is Jason. I am 30 years old. I love reading. It takes me away to new worlds.

Will: My name is Will. I am 51 years old. It makes me feel good when I can say, "I read a book about that..." and contribute to a conversation.

Carol: My name is Carol. I am 76 years old. Reading has become a part of my daily routine: always books, no electronics. Good or bad reading puts me to sleep or keeps me awake at night!

THE END!